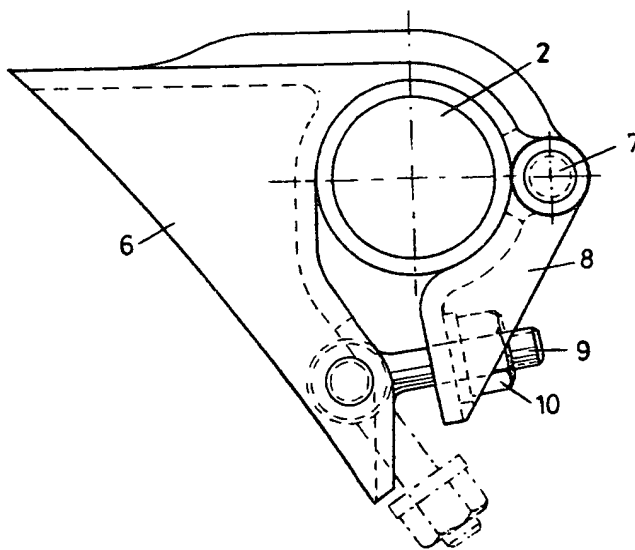


1101550 COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
2 SHEETS *This drawing is a reproduction of
the Original on a reduced scale*
Sheets 1 & 2

Fig.3



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Fig.1

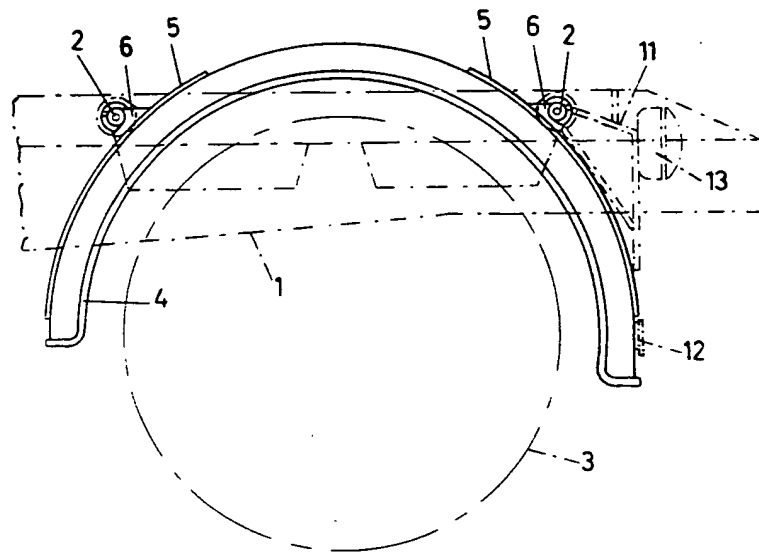
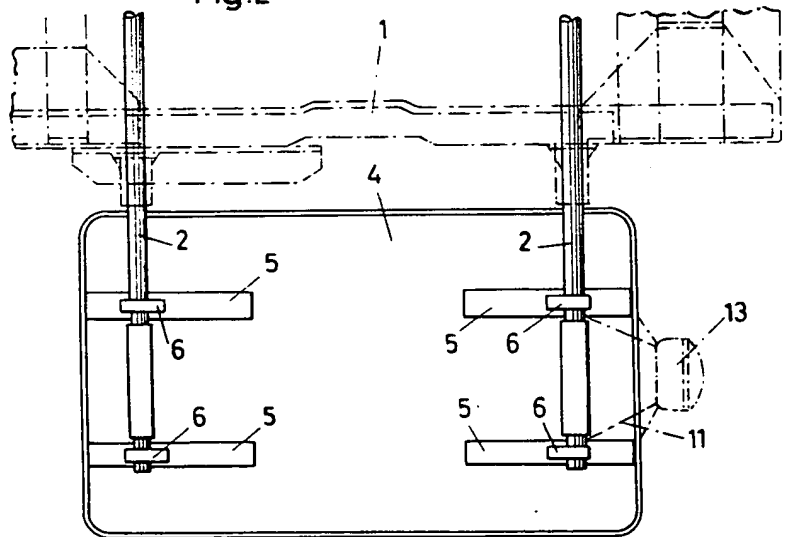


Fig.2



1.101.550

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

1.101.550



Date of Application and filing Complete Specification: 4 Oct., 1966.

No. 44225/66.

Application made in Germany (No. D48353 II/63c) on 5 Oct., 1965.

Complete Specification Published: 31 Jan., 1968.

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Index at acceptance :—B7 J82D4

Int. Cl.:—B 62 d 25/16

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to Mudguards for Vehicles

We, DAIMLER-BENZ AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT, of Stuttgart-Unterürkheim, Germany, a Company organised under the laws of Germany, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention concerns improvements relating to freight-carrying vehicles, e.g. lorries, and particularly tractors for semi-trailers, having mudguards or wings disposed on the chassis over the rear wheels.

With tractors for semi-trailers there is a tendency to dispose the coupling for the trailer as low as possible on the chassis frame in order to ensure that the trailer load will have the lowest possible centre of gravity. This necessitates a reduction of the distance between the tyres and their mudguards, so that the fitting of snow chains becomes extremely difficult. The invention seeks, inter alia, to obviate these difficulties.

According to the invention, in a freight-carrying vehicle having mudguards over the rear wheels, tubular supports project transversely from the vehicle chassis and the mudguards are suspended from the said supports by means of mounting pieces secured to the mudguards and provided with hinged flaps by which the said mounting pieces are releasably secured to the said supports in readily detachable manner. With this arrangement, the mudguards can be quickly removed before snow chains are fitted to the tyres and then reattached. As, after removal of the mudguards, there is free access to the tyres, the snow chains can be easily and reliably fitted and tightened. Despite the removal and refitting of the mudguards, the work requires less time than when chains are fitted to tyres covered by mudguards in the usual manner.

The mudguards may advantageously be made of a rubber material or a plastics material having similar properties and may be

stiffened near the mounting pieces by shaped sheet-metal parts. The use of a rubber or plastics material for the mudguards, among other advantages, facilitates the handling of the mudguards. It is possible for the mudguards to be easily flexed, as may be required during fitting or removal. To enable the mudguards to be removed without removing rear reflectors and lamps, a holder for the reflector and flashing-turn-indicating, brake and tail lights may be secured on the mudguard supports behind the wheels. Such arrangement of the reflector and lamps directly behind the mudguard dispenses with otherwise customary additional mounting at the end of the frame and permits of a larger turning angle of a semi-trailer relative to a tractor and consequently of a smaller turning circle for the whole semi-trailer unit.

One embodiment of the invention is illustrated by way of example in the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is a side elevation of a rear-axle wheel of a tractor for a semi-trailer.

Figure 2 a plan view thereof, and

Figure 3 a side elevation to a larger scale of a mounting piece for a mudguard.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, there are attached to the chassis frame 1 of a semi-trailer tractor, in the region of the rear axle, two tubular supports 2 which extend transversely of the frame and project therefrom on each side. For covering the rear wheels 3, mudguards 4 made of rubber, or of a plastics material having similar properties, are suspended from the supports 2 in readily detachable manner, so that the mudguards can be quickly removed to permit of the fitting of snow chains on the tyres, which would otherwise be difficult because of the short distance between the mudguards and the tyres, and thereafter replaced.

As can be seen for the one mudguard 4, mounting pieces or blocks 6 are disposed on the mudguard with the interposition of shaped sheet metal parts 5 for stiffening purposes.

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Two mounting pieces 6 are provided for the suspension of the mudguard from each support 2.

5 Figure 3 shows more clearly how the mounting piece 6 is furnished with a hinged and forked flap 8 which can swivel about a pivot 7 and can be secured by means of a swivel bolt 9 and nut 10. The flap 8 firmly embraces the support 2. By slackening the nut 10, swinging down the bolt 9 and turning up the flap 10 8, the mounting piece 6 can be easily detached from the support 2.

As shown in Figures 1 and 2, the support 2 behind the wheel 3 has attached to it a 15 holder 11 which carries a rear reflector 12 and lamps 13 for flashing-turn-indicating, brake and tail lights. When the mudguard 4 is removed from the support 2, it is not necessary to remove the holder 11.

20 WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A freight-carrying vehicle having mudguards over the rear wheels, wherein tubular supports project transversely from the vehicle

chassis and the mudguards are suspended from the said supports by means of mounting pieces 25 secured to the mudguards and provided with hinged flaps by which the said mounting pieces are releasably secured to the said supports in readily detachable manner.

2. A vehicle according to claim 1, wherein 30 the mudguards are made of a rubber or plastics material and are stiffened near the mounting pieces by shaped sheet-metal parts.

3. A vehicle according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a holder for a rear reflector and flashing-turn-indicating, brake and tail lights is 35 secured to the mudguard supports behind the wheels.

4. A freight-carrying vehicle having mudguards for the rear wheels substantially as 40 hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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